

at her funeral in Detroit, MI. Just a few days earlier, Rosa Parks became the first woman in the history of the United States to lie in honor in the Capitol Rotunda. And, a few years earlier on June 15, 1999, Rosa Parks was presented with the highest honor of Congress, the Congressional Gold Medal. The actions of Rosa Parks merit such honor, as her silent resistance to the humiliation and demoralization of racial segregation sparked the civil rights movement. Over 51 years ago in Montgomery, AL, she refused to give up her seat and move to the back of the bus. The strength and spirit of this courageous woman and her act of peaceful rebellion captured the conscience of the American people and the world. For Rosa Parks, this was but a small part of a lifetime of struggle for equality and justice. In fact, 12 years earlier, Rosa Parks had been arrested for violating another segregation law, which required African Americans to pay their fares at the front of the bus, then exit and reenter at the rear door. The driver of that bus was the same driver that would order Rosa Parks to the back of the bus in December of 1955.

The boycott of the bus system in Montgomery was a direct result of Rosa Parks' actions, which sparked a movement that called attention to the plight of African Americans nationwide and introduced the world to the civil rights movement and its young leader, who would one day have a national holiday declared in his honor, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Mr. President, we have come a long way toward achieving justice and equality for all. But we still have work to do. We must rededicate ourselves to continuing the struggle for civil rights and human rights.

DEALERS MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the demand for firearms by criminals and other prohibited purchasers is high. Unfortunately, there are also some dealers willing to supply those firearms. The simple fact is that criminals would not be able to so readily acquire weapons without gun dealers who are willing to bypass gun sales laws. This willingness by some licensed gun dealers to supply gun traffickers with firearms provides a steady flow of guns into the illegal market.

Multiple sales of the same model of gun to an individual are considered by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, ATF, to be among the prime indicators that gun trafficking is occurring from a gun shop. Gun collectors generally do not collect duplicates of the same firearm. The attempt to make multiple purchases of the same weapon should raise a red flag for the dealer to the possibility of trafficking, and reports of multiple sales to the ATF by responsible gun dealers provide a significant percentage of

leads for gun trafficking investigations. According to ATF reports, handguns sold as part of multiple sales comprised nearly a quarter of all guns sold in 1999 that were traced to crime that same year. Moreover, guns with obliterated serial numbers, a clear sign of trafficking, are substantially more likely to have been part of a multiple sale. Dealers are responsible for the products they sell, and they must be held accountable to inquire about the purpose the buyer declares for purchasing multiple handguns at one time and report such suspicious behavior to the ATF. One step several States have taken in order to address the issue of multiple purchases is instituting a one-handgun-per-month purchasing restriction.

Another common tool traffickers use to acquire firearms from licensed dealers is to avoid multiple sale reporting requirements by waiting short periods of time between handgun purchases. During a police operation in Chicago, some dealers suggested to undercover officers that they space out their purchases in order to avoid detection by law enforcement. Under Federal law, dealers are required to report only sales of two or more handguns within a 5 day period to the ATF. By encouraging purchasers to stagger their purchases every 6 days, a dealer would be able to circumvent reporting potential trafficking to law enforcement.

Using in-store accomplices to fill out the required Federal paperwork is also a common method gun traffickers employ. The most obvious sign of this occurs when the person who fills out the Federal purchasing forms is not the person looking at, handling, or selecting the gun to be purchased or paying for the weapon. Even if the purchaser is buying only a single handgun, this type of sale should not be permitted by a licensed gun dealer.

These types of illegal transactions likely occur every day in some licensed gun dealerships across the country. We must make it harder for criminals to get guns to decrease the number of gun violence victims. Those gun dealers who willingly aid gun traffickers must be held accountable for their actions.

NATIONAL SALUTE TO HOSPITALIZED VETERANS WEEK

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, this week we commemorate National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week.

In recent years, more than 10 million letters and cards, and thousands of personal visits have warmed the hearts of hospitalized veterans during National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week. This wonderful outpouring of gratitude has reached across the VA health care system's 155 hospitals, their 130-plus nursing homes, and 45 domiciliaries—which comprise the Nation's largest integrated health care system.

I commend each and every person who has or will use this week as an opportunity to show their gratitude and

respect to hospitalized veterans. Yet I do not feel that we should stop when this week ends. Hospitalized veterans, and all veterans, should remain in our hearts and minds throughout the year. With them in mind, I want to discuss, at this fitting moment, the President's budget proposal for VA.

I am concerned that President Bush's budget for VA medical care is out of touch with the demands being placed on the VA health care system. After accounting for inflation and increased utilization costs, President Bush's budget for VA health care translates to a mere fourteen-hundredth of a 1-percent increase in VA's health care budget. The President proposes that the VA health system's budget stays virtually the same, while veterans' needs are changing and increasing.

Nearly 3,500 men and women in uniform have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, and nearly 25,000 have been wounded in action. Veterans of previous wars are increasingly facing age-related health concerns. This is a critical time of critical need. At this time, is a budget increase translating to less than one-seventh of one percent responsible? Is it really enough?

We should salute our hospitalized veterans by providing the funds for the health care they need and have earned. After all, who can accept the alternative? Should we turn away aging veterans? Deny proper medical care to the physically wounded and mentally scarred? Is it any good to have a week honoring hospitalized veterans if we do not tend to their wounds in the coming year?

I believe serving veterans is a priority, especially those with urgent, pressing medical needs. On this week as much as any other, we must make attending to those needs a budget priority as well.

THE TRAGEDY AT TROLLEY SQUARE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the many heroes who have emerged out of a horrific tragedy that took place in my home State this week.

On Monday evening, February 12th, a lone gunman entered Trolley Square, a bustling shopping, dining, and entertainment plaza located in Salt Lake City. For the next several minutes he randomly shot and killed five people and wounded four others—leaving a path of destruction and a community in utter shock and grief.

Those who lost their lives that evening included: Teresa Ellis and her friend Brad Frantz; Kirsten Hinckley, a 15-year-old sophomore at Brighton High School; Vanessa Quinn who was meeting her husband at Trolley Square to shop for a long-awaited wedding ring; and Jeffery Walker, a Utah marketing director.

In the ensuing minutes, shoppers scrambled for cover and feared for their lives. Shop owners corralled customers